



## Department of Veterans Affairs

Washington, D.C.

### Leo S. Mackay Jr., Ph.D.

Leo S. Mackay Jr., Ph.D., was confirmed by the Senate to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs on May 24, 2001. As the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) second in command, Dr. Mackay is the chief operating officer of the federal government's second largest department. Budgeted at over \$50 billion annually, VA employs some 219,000 people at facilities nationwide.

Dr. Mackay is leading the transformation of VA into a high-performance organization focused on continuous improvement. He chairs the department's governance process through the Strategic Management Council, and drives its management through leadership of the Business Oversight Board and Capital Investment Board. VA is engaged in the overhaul and revitalization of its procurement processes, capital asset management, information & technology development, and financial management. He is co-chair of the VA-DoD Joint Executive Council that is forging new ground in VA's cooperation and resource sharing efforts with the Defense Department. Prior to his nomination, Dr. Mackay had general management responsibility as Vice President of the Aircraft Services Business Unit at Bell Helicopter Textron, Inc., of Ft. Worth, Texas.

A 1983 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Dr. Mackay was a Secretary of the Navy Distinguished Midshipman Graduate. He completed pilot training in 1985, graduating at the top of his class. He was a member of Fighter Squadron Eleven for three years, conducting operational deployments to the North Atlantic, Mediterranean and Indian Ocean. He completed Naval Fighter Weapons School (Topgun), and compiled 235 carrier landings and 1,000 hours in the F-14. His military decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

From 1989 to 1993, Dr. Mackay was a Kennedy Fellow at Harvard University, earning a master's degree in public policy from the Kennedy School of Government and Ph.D. in political and economic analysis from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. He was a Harvard MacArthur Scholar, a Graduate Prize Fellow and a Research Fellow at the Center for Science and International Affairs. In 1992, he taught military history and western civilization at the Naval Academy and was a Special Guest Fellow at the Brookings Institution. His writings have appeared in the *Naval War College Review*, *New Republic*, *Proceedings*, *The Washington Times*, and *The Dallas Morning News*.

Following his Naval Academy assignment, Dr. Mackay served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense from 1993-95 as military assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Policy. Leaving active duty military service in 1995, Dr. Mackay joined the corporate staff of Lockheed Martin, where he became Director of Market Development. He left Lockheed Martin in 1997 to join Bell Helicopter.

Dr. Mackay is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the International Institute for Strategic Studies, and the U.S. Naval Institute.



**Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs**